

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /018 W

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R 201355Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4453

UNCLAS JIDDA 2875

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN SA

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF STATE 94266

1. THERE IS NO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS SUCH, IN SAUDI ARABIA. A LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF US FIRMS BASE IN SAUDI ARABIA DOES EXIST AND MEETS MONTHLY

TO DISCUSS LOCAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS EMPLOYEE CONDUCT, HOUSING, LABOR RELATIONS, RECREATION, ETC. AN EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDS EACH MEETING. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT TO FORMALIZE THE GROUP. ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HERE WOULD PRESENT SOME PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY SHORT TIME THAT US PERSONNEL REMAIN BEFORE TRANSFER. TWO OR THREE YEARS APPEARS TO BE AVERAGE POSTING OF SENIOR PERSONNEL. THUS, NEEDED CONTINUITY IN LEADERSHIP FOR ANY AMERICAN CHAMBER MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION WITH ANY PERMANENCE.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS PROBABLY MEET MORE REGULARLY WITH AMERICAN COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA THAN ELSEWHERE BECAUSE MOST ARE NEW AND REQUIRE MORE ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNIQUE MARKET. EMBASSY HAS COMPLETED PLANS FOR BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH US REPS.

3. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JIDDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR ON THE OUTLOOK FOR ESTABLISHING

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AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HE STATED THAT US

FIRMS ESTABLISHING HERE MUST REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL CHAMBER WHICH HE ALLEGED WOULD PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. HE SAW NOT NEED FOR AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JIDDA UNLESS IT WAS A PURELY SOCIALLY ORIENTED ORGANIZATION.

4. AS THE AMERICAN PRESENCE GROWS THERE MAY BE MORE POTENTIAL FOR THE FORMATION OF SOME TYPE OF BUSINESS AND TRADE ORGANIZATION. IN LATE 1975 THIS, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, WAS DISCUSSED WITH MR. JOHN L. CALDWELL, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS RELATIONS OF THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS WELL AS JOHN BREWER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR NEA OF THE CHAMBER DURING THEIR VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.  
PORTER

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